(a) whether Advisory Group on insurance regulations headed by Shri R. Ramakrishnan has recommended for expansion of insurance coverage in rural areas through cooperatives;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Cooperative societies have been allowed to enter the insurance sector through the Enactment of Insurance (Amendment) Act. 2002.

(d) Does not arise.

Forts and Garhies in Bundelkhand in M.P.

†* 117. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules for declaring a historical monument as prelected one;

(b) what is the number of Forts and Garhies which are lying ignored in Bundelkhand; and

(c) the reasons for not protecting and declaring various ancient Forts and Garhies belonging to Bundelas and others in Bundelkhand area of Madhya Pradesh as national heritage?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Under the provisions of Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the Central Government has the powers to declare any ancient monument or archaeological site and remains which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years, to be of national importance.

(b) 15 Forts and 2 Garhies in Madhya Pradesh and 4 Forts in Uttar Pradesh in the Bundelkhand region have been protected by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Archaeological Survey of India and they are in good state of preservation. Besides, six Forts are protected by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and one Fort is protected by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the Bundelkhand region.

(c) Question does not arise.

Apprehensions of NRIs against Kelkar Committee

*118. DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Non-Resident Indians participating in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas had complained about the Kelkar Committee recommendations on taxes;

(b) if so, what were the main objections raised by them;

(c) whether the Kelkar Task Force had recommended that the very concept of Non-Ordinarily Residents (NORs) be removed and that the tax exemption they get be also withdrawn;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(e) whether this recommendation has not been accepted by Government in view of its opposition?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) As the issues raised by the hon'ble Member relate to tax policy, and the Budgetary exercise being in process, it will not be possible to respond to the question.

Funds for modernisation of airports

*119. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Shadow over modernisation of airports", which appeared in the Statesman dated the 8th January, 2003;